(c) what are the details of such cases which took place in Delhi during the period mentioned above;

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to curb the activities of criminals and save the girls and women from such unscrupulous persons;

(e) whether Government have considered and propose to bring a suitable legislation amending the relevant Acts for the protection of life, honour and dignity of women in the country, if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(f) by when such a comprehensive legislation is likely to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement showing category-wise atrocities against women including dowry deaths, rape etc. in the country (State/Union Territory-wise) during the years 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 is attached. (See Appendix 172, Annexure No. 5]

(d) to (f) The registration investigation detection and prevention of crimes, including crimes against women, is the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, the Government of India have initiated a number of measures to check such crimes. The Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) was amended in 1984 and 1986 to make the law more stringent. The Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure (1973) and the Indian Evidence Act (1872) have been amended to deal effectively not only with dowry death cases but also with cases of cruelty to married women. Instructions/ guidelines have also been issued from time to time to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administratoins to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women. Besides, the media is being used to project women in positive terms. Awarness-generation camps are being organised. Development of women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA) programme and female literacy programmes are some of the other steps being taken to improve the status of women.

Fire in Sadar Bazar

135. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 300 shops were gutted in Sadar Bazar, Delhi on 12th October, 1994; if so, the details of the incident; and

(b) the findings of the inquiry, if any, ordered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Delhi Fire Service have reported that 80 shops were gutted in a serious fire which broke out on 12th October, 1994 near Ahmed Ki Sarai, Gandhi Market, Sadar Bazar, Delhi. Shri Sanat Kaul, Managing Dilector & Chairman, Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation, New Delhi is conducting an enquiry into the incident.

Border Fencing

136. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Government for fencing up Indo-Bangla and Indo-Pak border;

(b) if so, the progress made so far; and

(c) the year by which the fencing work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fencing for a length of 355 kms. on Indo-Bangladesh Border and 835 kms. on Indo-Pak Border has been erected so far

(c) As per the approved scheme the scheduled date of completion is March, 1996 on Indo-Bangladesh Border and by December, 1996 on Indo-Pak Borler.

Attack on Journalist

137. SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the official call of 'Halla Bol' given by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh; if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been planned an premeditated attacks on 'Amar Ujala' and 'Dainik Jagran newspapers recently and if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government to protect the freedom of press in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Reports regarding the 'Halla Bol' call have come to the notice of Central Government Information on the subject has been sought from the State Government which is still awaiedt.

Amendment of Rules of Business

139. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the exact subjects or parts of the normal working of the Home Ministry which have now gone to the Prime Minister's office;

(b) whether the Rules of Business have been accordingly amended and if so, when;

(c) whether this arrangement would create administrative difficulties; and

(d) whether the arrangement is temporary or permanent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M SAYEED): (a) A separate department called the Department of Jammu & Kashmir Affairs was created with effect from 1st November, 1994 to deal with (i) constitutional provisions with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir and (ii) all matters relating to the State of Jammu and Kashmir excluding those with which the Ministry of External Affairs is concerned.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The arrangement will continue until further orders.

Surrender of notorious smuggler Veerappan

139. SHRI V. NARAYANA SAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the notorious sandalwood smuggler, Shri Veerappan have offered recently to surrender provided his life and the lives of his fellowmen and their family members are spared; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government and steps proposed to be taken to accept this offer and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M SAYEED): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recovery of explosives in Jangpura

140. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recovery of crude bombs in large number from the custody of